



# **Department of Human Services Family Services Administration (FSA)**

Homeless Prevention Services  
RFA No. DHS-FSA-HPS-2015

Pre-application Conference: June 10, 2015



# Homelessness Prevention: Purpose

1. Prevent homelessness from occurring
2. Help families who seek shelter find immediate alternatives
3. Prevent repeated stays in shelter

# Building an Effective Crisis Response System for Families

Figure 3: Sample Housing Pathway



# What does our data tell us about who can benefit?

- 504 of the 987 families placed in shelter during the FY15 Hypothermia Season were Priority 1 at the first assessment at VWFRC.
- The remaining families (483) that were placed in shelter became Priority 1 at some point during the Hypothermia Season.

## ***Of the 483:***

- 45% applied before Hypothermia Season and were placed during the season
- 20% of families had children under the age of one.

# What We Know – Prior to Intake

| A. Site Lived at Directly Prior to VW Intake, Hypo '15 to date (n=1407 families) |      |           |
|--|------|-----------|
|  | #    | % of 1407 |
| Place not meant for habitation   | 40   | 2.9%      |
| Foster Care  | 1    | 0.1%      |
| Hospital/Treatment Facility  | 4    | 0.3%      |
| Paid Motel (not shelter/overflow)  | 31   | 2.2%      |
| Safe Haven   | 36   | 2.6%      |
| Transitional Housing   | 15   | 1.1%      |
| Living with Family or Friends  | 1181 | 84.0%     |
| Living in housing on their own   | 73   | 5.2%      |
| Other  | 19   | 1.4%      |
| Not reported   | 4    | 0.3%      |
| TOTAL  | 1407 | 100.0%    |

# More of What We Know

- 5% of the families placed during the FY15 Hypothermia Season had a previous exit from the emergency shelter system to a permanent destination.
- 11% of families placed during FY15 Hypothermia Season self-report a history of foster care involvement
- *Nearly 42% of all families placed in shelter have a head of household between the age of 18 – 24.*

| Age of Head of Household |                  |                                       |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                          | VWFRC Applicants | Hypo. FY '15<br>Shelter<br>Placements |
| <b>18-24</b>             | 38.6%            | 42.7%                                 |
| <b>25-30</b>             | 28.6%            | 28.4%                                 |
| <b>31-40</b>             | 21.8%            | 18.6%                                 |
| <b>41-50</b>             | 7.0%             | 8.0%                                  |
| <b>51-60</b>             | 3.7%             | 2.2%                                  |
| <b>60+</b>               | 0.3%             | 0.1%                                  |

# Principles - Approach

- Flexible, implemented through collaborative efforts and informed by data and accountability.
- Multi-generational
- Trauma-informed
- Housing First
- Informed by brain science: executive functioning, reducing toxic stress, resilience
- Partnerships!
  - Integration with TANF Services
  - Networked with Virginia Williams Family Resource Center

# Core Components

1. Protects safety and well being of family
2. Risk Assessment using DHS provided Tool (Westat)
3. Linkages to homeless services as needed
4. Financial management and asset building
5. Mediation and family counseling
6. Housing navigation
7. Coordination with TANF employment
8. Legal services –landlord/tenant, child support
9. Flexible financial assistance
10. Case coordination – linkages to community services



# Program Exit...

- Right kind assistance, in the right amount at the right time
  - Resolve housing crisis
  - Linkages to community based services
  - Remediation of foundational issues
  - What to do if things go south....

# Reporting

- HMIS
- Monthly reports - draft
  - Households served
  - Nature of assistance
  - Contacts made
  - Housing status
- Family plan
  - Progress
- Exits

Questions? Please contact:

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